

SPEAKER BAACK: You've heard the motion to adopt the E & R amendments. All those in favor say aye. Opposed no. They are adopted.

CLERK: Mr. President, the first amendment to the bill is by Senator Withem. Amendment is on page 2659 of the Journal. (See AM2185.)

SPEAKER BAACK: Senator Withem.

SENATOR WITHEM: Yes, Mr. Speaker, members of the body, this is a substantive change in the congressional redistricting plan. It is not a technical amendment. It is being offered in the true sense of the word offered. I am giving it to the body to let the body make a decision on what they wish to do with it. It is not an area that personally affects me, quite obviously. I live in Sarpy County and I'm very pleased with the way most plans I have seen, with one notable exception, and I don't see Senator Robinson around so I won't talk much about his, but I'm basically pleased with the way most plans treat the Second Congressional District, that's the district in which I reside. I am offering this, though, as an alternative to the two plans that the Legislature has so far considered. The Schimek plan was advanced from the committee. It made major changes in northeast Nebraska. In exchange for that, it kept southeast Nebraska relatively intact. The body considered that plan as it related to a plan, similar plan, offered by Senator Conway which kept northeast Nebraska intact, but made major changes in southeast Nebraska. The body adopted the Conway plan by a fairly narrow margin, but there was some people saying, isn't there something we can do that is a balance? And what I'm presenting to you I think is a balance. A map was distributed yesterday. If you're like me, you probably have difficulty finding it in the pile here, but to refresh your memory on what it does is the changes from the current boundaries, Pierce, Knox, Fillmore, Jefferson would go to the Third District. They're currently in the First. The two key counties that have been the bone of contention, Madison and Saline, would both stay in the First District. The Schimek plan moved Madison out of the First District into the Third. That caused serious objection from northeast Nebraska and the able Chair of the Government Committee. The Conway plan, which is now LB 615, moves Saline County and splits Gage County and moves them into the Third District. This plan ends up with a balance of...with a...well within our deviations, our standard deviations. The